BENTON 2004 ANNUAL COUNTY PROFILE

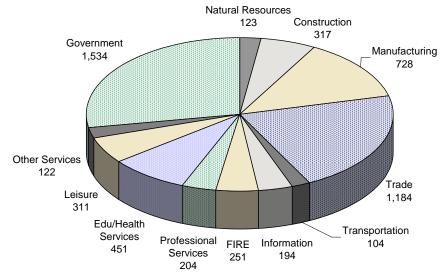
Executive Summary

As of 2003, Benton County's largest private industry was Trade, representing 21.45 percent (1,184) of the county's total covered employment of 5,521. Although the county's total employment decreased by 2.63 percent since 2002, the average annual wage increased by 5.80 percent to \$25,747 for all industries.

Benton County's average weekly wage for all industries was \$495 for 2003. This was an increase of 5.77 percent since 2002. The highest average weekly wage for a sector was in Manufacturing, averaging \$668 with gross total wages of \$25.3 million. Between 2002 and 2003, the Wholesale Trade industry had the largest percentage increase in average weekly wage of 16.93 percent (\$96).



2003 Industry Breakout by Employment in Benton County



Note: Government includes public education and health institutions

Ten Largest Employers by Employment Based on Annual 2003 Employment by Private Industry

Rank	Name of Company	Industry			
1	Benco Manufacturing	Manufacturing			
2	Frontier Natural Brands	Manufacturing			
3	Lutheran Homes For The Aged	Health Services			
4	South Slope Coop Telephone Co	Information			
5	Fareway Stores	Retail Trade			
6	Keystone Nursing Care Center	Health Services			
7	Belle Plaine NRC	Health Services			
8	Big Timber	Manufacturing			
9	Pierce Lumber	Manufacturing			
10	Garling Construction	Construction			

QUICK FACTS

Covered Employment (2003)

		%
Total Employment	5,521	0.391
Average Weekly Wage	\$495	83.8 ²
Largest Private Sector: Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,184	0.483

- ¹ Percent is based on statewide covered employment of 1,404,476
- ² Percent is based on statewide average weekly wage of \$591
- ³ Percent is based on statewide covered sector employment

Census Statistics

		Rank
2003 Population	26,243	24
Growth % since 1990	17.0%	4
2003 Unemployment Rate	6.0%	13
2002 Per Capita Personal Income	\$26,509	37
2000 Median Household Income	\$42,427	7
Danking based on laws's 00		

Ranking based on Iowa's 99 counties

2004 QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES PROFILE

2003 Covered Employment and Reporting Units by Industry in Benton County

Reporting Units		its		Employment				
2002	2003	% Change		2002	2003	% Change		
621	621	0.00%	Total All Industries	5,670	5,521	-2.63%		
565	566	0.18%	Private Business	4,146	3,987	-3.84%		
11	13	18.18%	Ag/Natural Resources & Mining	114	123	7.89%		
81	77	-4.94%	Construction	355	317	-10.70%		
38	38	0.00%	Manufacturing	810	728	-10.12%		
148	147	-0.68%	Trade	1,201	1,184	-1.42%		
54	55	1.85%	Wholesale Trade	342	331	-3.22%		
94	93	-1.06%	Retail Trade	859	853	-0.70%		
44	46	4.55%	Transportation & Utilities	108	104	-3.70%		
15	13	-13.33%	Information	197	194	-1.52%		
52	52	0.00%	Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	272	251	-7.72%		
56	54	-3.57%	Professional & Business Services	229	204	-10.92%		
36	38	5.56%	Education & Health Services	450	451	0.22%		
41	45	9.76%	Leisure & Hospitality	292	311	6.51%		
44	44	0.00%	Other Services	118	122	3.39%		
56	56	0.00%	Government	1,524	1,534	0.66%		
6	7	16.67%	State	140	144	2.86%		
42	42	0.00%	Local	1,309	1,313	0.31%		
8	7	-12.50%	Federal	75	76	1.33%		

QUICK FACTS

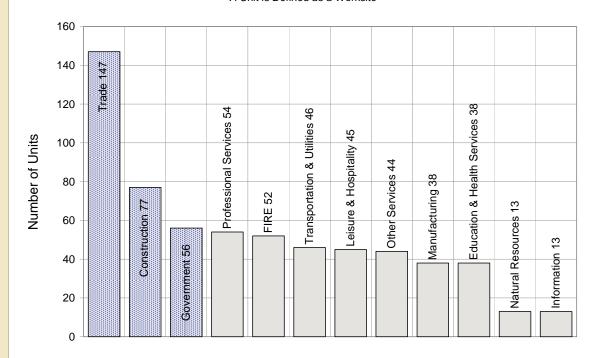
Benton County's Largest Industries by Worksites

Wholesale & Retail Trade 147

Construction 77

Government 56

Reporting Units by Industry in 2003 in Benton County A Unit is Defined as a Worksite



Trade - Wholesale & Retail Trade F.I.R.E. - Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate;

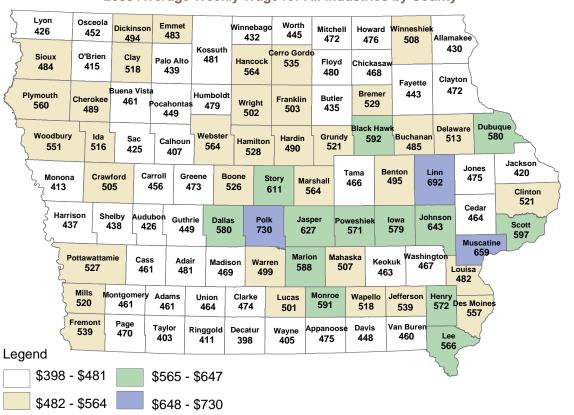
Natural Resources - Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Mining.

2004 QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES PROFILE

2003 Average Annual and Weekly Wage by Industry in Benton County

Average Annual Wage		е		Average Weekly Wage			Wage				
2002		2003	% Change		2002		2002		2002 2003		% Change
\$ 24,336	\$	25,747	5.80%	Total All Industries	\$	468	\$	495	5.77%		
\$ 23,507	\$	25,176	7.10%	Private Business	\$	452	\$	484	7.08%		
\$ 25,319	\$	25,287	-0.13%	Ag/Natural Resources & Mining	\$	487	\$	486	-0.21%		
\$ 26,918	\$	31,323	16.37%	Construction	\$	518	\$	602	16.22%		
\$ 32,625	\$	34,757	6.54%	Manufacturing	\$	627	\$	668	6.54%		
\$ 20,625	\$	22,426	8.73%	Trade	\$	397	\$	431	8.56%		
\$ 29,478	\$	34,490	17.00%	Wholesale Trade	\$	567	\$	663	16.93%		
\$ 17,100	\$	17,745	3.77%	Retail Trade	\$	329	\$	341	3.65%		
\$ 29,332	\$	31,174	6.28%	Transportation & Utilities	\$	564	\$	600	6.38%		
\$ 30,704	\$	32,819	6.89%	Information	\$	590	\$	631	6.95%		
\$ 26,670	\$	29,018	8.81%	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	\$	513	\$	558	8.77%		
\$ 19,450	\$	22,595	16.17%	Professional & Business Services	\$	374	\$	435	16.31%		
\$ 18,328	\$	19,732	7.66%	Education & Health Services	\$	352	\$	379	7.67%		
\$ 7,632	\$	7,666	0.46%	Leisure & Hospitality	\$	147	\$	147	0.00%		
\$ 20,522	\$	22,088	7.63%	Other Services	\$	395	\$	425	7.59%		
\$ 26,591	\$	27,231	2.41%	Government	\$	511	\$	524	2.54%		
\$ 31,396	\$	32,576	3.76%	State	\$	604	\$	626	3.64%		
\$ 25,644	\$	26,249	2.36%	Local	\$	493	\$	505	2.43%		
\$ 34,148	\$	34,425	0.81%	Federal	\$	657	\$	662	0.76%		

2003 Average Weekly Wage for All Industries by County



QUICK FACTS

Average Weekly Wage Comparisons

Benton \$495

Rank Among All 99 Iowa Counties -44-

> Statewide \$591

> > Nation* \$726

* preliminary data

2004 QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES PROFILE

CONTACT INFO

Iowa Workforce Development, Employment Statistics Bureau

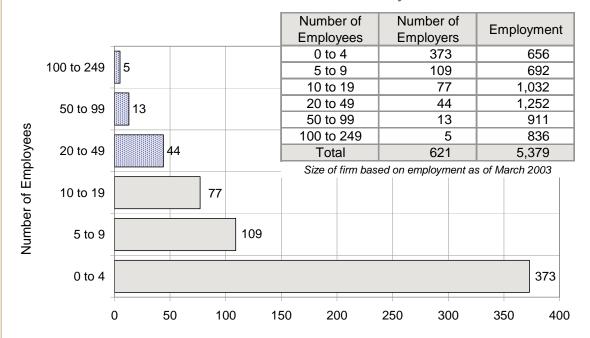
1000 E Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50319

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Equal opportunity employer/ program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

> TTY 515-281-4748; 1-800-831-1399

2003 Size of Firm in Benton County



Number of Employers



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 1000 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, lowa 50319-0209

